

# HARNETT COUNTY NEWS

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Lillington, N. C., Thursday, July 15, 1948

"If It Concerns Harnett, It's In THE NEWS"

## Lillington To Begin With Huge Street Paving Program Soon

### ENTIRE TOWN TO HAVE PAVED 20-FOOT STRIPS

TOWN COMMISSIONERS HAVE SIGNED PETITIONS FROM PROPERTY OWNERS TO START PROJECT

All streets of Lillington not heretofore paved are to have a 20-foot covering of asphalt one and a half inches thick under a program adopted by the Town Commissioners at a meeting July 6. Front street will receive an extra width of 30 feet 4 inches thick.

Petitions were circulated by Mayor Charlie Loving and the Commissioners, and it was found that practically all property owners were anxious and waiting for the opportunity to join the program by lending their approval to a proposition that they pay for the paving except at intersections which will be paved at the expense of the town.

Cost of the paving will be prorated to property owners according to the number of feet their property faces the street.

Voters at a recent special election approved overwhelmingly a proposal that the town issue \$45,000 in bonds to cover its share of cost in the paving program.

Only paved streets in Lillington at present are the main highways running through town, the streets used by school buses, and a few blocks paved at private expense by certain residents.

Following are the street sections listed to be paved under the program which is to start as soon as the Mayor and Commissioners award the contract:

That portion of First Street between Front Street and "M" Street.

That portion of Second Street between Front Street and "M" Street.

That portion of Third Street between Front Street and "J" Street.

That portion of Front Street between Main Street and Third Street.

That portion of "J" Street between Main Street and N & S Right-of-way.

That portion of "K" Street between Main Street and Third Street.

That portion of "L" Street between Main Street and First Street.

That portion of Eighth Street between Front Street and the Johnsonville road, excepting that portion between "J" and "L" Streets, already paved.

That portion of Ninth Street between Front Street and "G" Street.

That portion of Ninth Street between "K" Street and the Johnsonville road.

That portion of Tenth Street between "J" Street and the Johnsonville road.

That portion of Eleventh Street between "I" Street and the Johnsonville road.

That portion of Twelfth Street between Front Street and the Johnsonville road, excepting that portion of land abutting directly upon Twelfth Street on which is situated the Lillington School.

That portion of Thirteenth Street between "L" Street and "M" Street.

That portion of "I" Street between Main Street and Twelfth Street.

That portion of "K" Street between Main Street and Twelfth Street.

That portion of "L" Street between Main Street and Thirteenth Street.

That portion of "M" Street between Main Street and Thirteenth Street.

### Open Bids Tuesday

Bids for paving Lillington's streets, building culverts, laying storm sewers and catch basins, will be open at Town Hall next Tuesday, July 20, at 2 p. m. by Mayor Loving and the Town Board of Commissioners.

Paul M. Van Camp of Southern Pines is the consulting engineer. Mayor Loving told The News today that he expects some active bidding on the job, but couldn't say how the price would range.

Mr. Alex White, local contractor, is expected to put in a bid, and so will the Zeigler-Cline company which a few weeks ago laid six blocks of paving here.

Called for are 8,000 cubic yards of excavation over one inch deep, and 64,540 square yards of sand-asphalt or alternate bituminous concrete surface course.

Mayor Loving stated he fully expects the paving work to be underway within the next two or three weeks.

### "Citizens of Tomorrow"



Top Row: Evelyn, age 11 years, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Pace, Broadway; Andrew, age 4 years, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Jackson, Lillington; Ann, age 11 years, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Jackson, Lillington. Bottom Row: Mrs. E. H. Parker of Linden R-1; Frank, age 11 years, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Farrell, Lillington; Robert, 10 years, and Patricia, 3 years, children of Mr. and Mrs. Hughes Hunt, Lillington.

### FURNITURE CO. OPENS MODERN STORE IN FUQUAY

HOKE C. POWELL ACQUIRES FULL OWNERSHIP OF LARGEST FURNITURE STORE IN FUQUAY SPRINGS AREA

On Thursday, July 15, the Fuquay Furniture Company will officially open their new and most modern furniture store for the general public to visit and inspect. For several weeks the firm has been in preparation for the event, and the spacious display room is stocked with some of the very best of household goods.

Previous to the acquisition of the present building, the company was located on North Main Street, and was operated jointly by Hoke C. Powell and R. E. Alken. Mr. Powell has bought out the Alken interests, and is the sole owner of the firm.

A former veteran of World War II, Mr. Powell has become one of the city's most progressive businessmen, and the new store will mean a forward step both to the owner and the town. The building is of cinder block and brick construction, the floor being 67x90 feet. It is well lighted and heated, and possesses large display windows facing South Main Street traffic. The building is directly opposite the Fuquay Motor Company.

Practically every line of furniture for every room is on display and prices have been drastically reduced for the opening week. Store hours have been extended until 9:00 p. m. through the opening week. Mr. Powell is to be commended for his enterprise and he has extended a very warm welcome for the public to see his new plant.

### FOOTMANS HAVE VISITOR

Dr. Margaret Campbell of Tallahassee, Florida, arrived Friday to spend a week here visiting Mr. and Mrs. Footman. Dr. Campbell is a member of the faculty of the University of Florida. Prior to her visit to Lillington the visitor was in Chapel Hill for several days. Dr. Campbell has visited here on a number of occasions and will be well remembered by friends in town.

## Some Farmers Report Heavy Loss In Present Tobacco Crop

To what extent the various setbacks in the 1948 tobacco crop is affecting Harnett farmers would be hard to state without an extensive checkup. Heat and wind storms have wrought heavy damage, and so have the extremely dry periods that have come too frequently since the plants were ready to set in the fields.

Farmers experienced some trying times, too, in bringing their plants to the setting stage.

The present dry period, which has lasted for several weeks in most sections, has caused the bottom leaves to ripen (or burn) and in many instances they are being cured. It is not expected that they will be of anything except very low quality.

All this, coupled with the 27.52 per cent cut in acreage, is causing Harnett farmers to estimate their income from tobacco this year at not above 50 to 60 per cent compared with 1947.

This is not to discount the fact, however, that there are hundreds of fine fields of tobacco to be seen in Harnett county. "My tobacco is look-

### TOBACCO MEN ELECT McQUEEN AT LUMBERTON

RUFUS A. McQUEEN NAMED PRESIDENT OF LUMBERTON TOBACCO BOARD OF TRADE; MARKET OPENS AUG. 3

Lumberton, July 14.—Rufus A. McQueen, popular and veteran warehouseman, was elected president at the annual organization meeting of the Lumberton Tobacco Board of Trade here last week.

He succeeds W. E. Elmore, general manager of the Interstate Tobacco Company, one of the three largest independent companies with factories here.

The other new officers are Neill A. McKelthen, warehouseman, first vice-president; E. K. Howard, resident manager of Person-Garrett's local plant, second vice-president; R. A. Hedgpeth, warehouseman, treasurer, and Marion R. Alexander, the sales supervisor, secretary.

After a general business session, the Lumberton Tobacco Warehousemen's Association held a short meeting to adopt a sales schedule and complete plans for the season, which opens August 3rd with all indications for another banner year.

The local market, which ranks as the 10th largest in the whole country and a close 2nd on the Border, has had a phenomenal growth from 3 to 39 million pounds a season in only 25 years, and the crop through this section is said by many to be about the best in the Bright Belt.

The personnel of the Lumberton market, which has three sets of buyers, six firms operating eleven warehouses, and six sales every day, or a sale by each firm, will be practically the same as last year except that Mr. Alexander has replaced R. C. Rankin as sales supervisor.

### MARRIAGE ANNOUNCED

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Messamer of Olivia announce the marriage of their daughter, Miss Doris Jean Messamer, to Mr. Hales L. Harbour, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mallory Harbour of Cameron, on July 2 in the Olivia Presbyterian Church.

## Some Farmers Report Heavy Loss In Present Tobacco Crop

ing good and holding up fine," is the way numbers of farmers have responded to the inquiry of The News in regard to the crop's condition.

Most farmers in Harnett are now beginning to put their tobacco in barns. So far, no report has been received as to the "looks" of the leaf after it is taken from the barns. Most of the curings are bottom leaves.

The News has been told by several farmers that they will have tobacco ready for the opening of the Border Belt markets on August 3.

Many of the markets heretofore opening with the Middle Belt are endeavoring to secure opening dates with the Eastern Belt, which opens on August 19. The Middle Belt opens Sept. 2.

If these markets succeed in gaining the earlier opening date, no doubt many Harnett farmers will hold off selling their better grades till August 19. Many of them, however, will undoubtedly begin hauling their tobacco to the Border markets as soon as they open.

## TOWN FATHERS FIX BUDGET AND SET TAX RATE

BUDGET CALLS FOR \$81,000 AND TAX RATE SET AT \$1.74, SAME AS HAS PREVAILED FOR SEVERAL YEARS

A tentative budget for the fiscal year 1948-49 for the town of Lillington has been set by the City Board of Commissioners, and based upon set-up of \$31,000 necessary revenue for the year. The tax rate for 1948 has been fixed at \$1.74 on the \$109 valuation. This rate is the same as has prevailed for the past several years.

In view of rising costs which necessitate increased expenditures, the Commissioners deemed it expedient to hold to the \$1.74 rate at least for another year. The town anticipates some improvements in its utilities also, and this will call for more funds.

Present debt of the town is only a few thousand dollars, but a bond issue authorized for \$45,000 will increase the debt. The Commissioners propose to commence the street improvement program right away.

The budget calls for:

General fund — \$31,000.  
Debt Service — \$50,000.

All members of the Council voted for adoption of the tentative budget, which is published in today's News. A copy is on file in the office of Town Clerk H. H. Hamilton and will remain open for ten days before its final adoption as the permanent budget for 1948-49.

Based upon the estimate that a total of \$31,000 will be needed to finance the town for the current fiscal year, the Commissioners unanimously adopted a tax rate of \$1.74, as follows:

For general fund — \$1.50  
For debt service — .24  
The bond issue of \$45,000 was authorized by the voters for street improvements. Part of the current revenue from taxes will be used for other improvements.

## TWO BIG COURTS GOING TUESDAY

Judge Floyd Taylor and Solicitor M. O. Lee Also Find Their Criminal Docket Crowded

Mark it up for Judge Floyd Taylor of the County Recorder's Court: he's not going to allow his docket to become too congested. And Solicitor M. O. Lee feels the same way about it. When Superior Court used the courtroom Tuesday to clear up its big docket, Judge Taylor and Solicitor Lee simply commandeered Lillington's Town Hall auditorium and went about the business of wiping off the cases that threatened to congest their docket.

It was a big day for Town Hall. Mrs. Marjorie Taylor, the town's office clerk, remarked to The News: "This is the largest number of visitors we've had in a long time."

Deputy Sheriff Ken Matthews was handling the crowd as well as the defendants. And Judge Taylor and Solicitor Lee were going through the docket in regular clearing-house order.

Deputy Clerk of Court Duncan Ray, who always "clerks" for the Recorder's Court, told The News: "We have a big docket today, but watch us wade through it." No time is allowed to drag in County Recorder's Court.

## Examinations For Broadway Postoffice

The United States Civil Service Commission announces an open competitive examination for the position of Substitute Clerk for filling vacancies in the Post Office at Broadway, North Carolina. The usual entrance salary of this position is \$79 per hour. Competitors will be requested to report for written examination, which will be held as soon as practicable after the date set for the close of receipt of applications. Full information and application blanks may be obtained from the Postmaster at Broadway, N. C.

## Neill McLeod Gets Army Promotion

By command of Brigadier General Shoe, Tec. 4 Neill McLeod of the 401st Army postal unit has been promoted to Staff Sergeant. Sgt. McLeod is assigned to Korea Base Command located approximately twenty miles from Seoul, the Capital City of Korea. Mr. McLeod and the late Mr. Enoch McLeod, Sgt. McLeod is a graduate of Boone Trail School, class of 1944. He enlisted in the Army in November 1944. He has been in Korea since March 2, 1947.

## Criminal Court Is Slowly Disposing Of Big Docket

### Sgt. James H. Tripp to Be Buried on Sunday



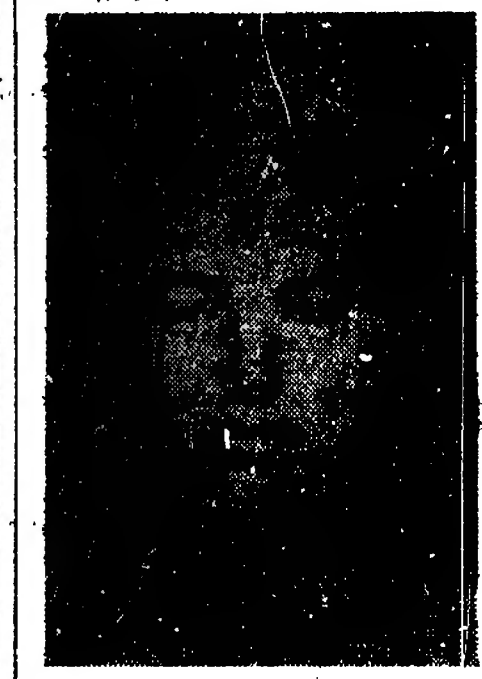
The remains of Staff Sergeant James H. Tripp of Lillington, R-1, arrived at his home on Sunday, and the funeral of the former young man who died over France in November, 1944, will be conducted on Sunday afternoon, July 18, at 2:00 o'clock at the Harnett Memorial Park near Lillington.

Elder James S. Collins of the Primitive Baptist Church, Angier, will be the officiating minister, and members of Ernest Simmons Post VFW, Lillington, will assist.

Sgt. Tripp had entered the service in November 1942 at Fort Bragg. He had attended Lillington high school before volunteering for the armed service. At the time of his death he was with the Ninth Bomber Command in France. He had been in 25 combat missions. He had been awarded the Purple Heart, and later was awarded the Air Medal and Officers' Cross posthumously.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. James H. Tripp, are survived by two brothers, William H. and Cornelius H. Tripp, all of Lillington, R-1.

### Returns To Native Soil For Last Rest



Among the 144 North Carolina dead to be brought home for burial aboard the United States Army Transport Oglethorpe Victory was Sgt. Laurie J. Griffin, son of Mrs. Nannie K. Griffin, RFD 1, Broadway, N. C.

Sgt. Griffin was killed in action in France November 15. He had been overseas several months and took part in the Invasion of France D-Day.

Sgt. Griffin lived in the Broadway section all his life. He received his education in the Broadway and Boone Trail schools. He entered service Jan. 28, 1942, and received his training at Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif., Camp Rucke, Ala., Camp Butler, and was on maneuvers in Tennessee. When he went overseas he was first stationed in England and then went to France.

Surviving in addition to his mother are his wife and little daughter and the following brothers and sisters: Mrs. Coy Lee, Mrs. Mrs. Ruth Holt of Broadway, Mrs. Walter O'Quinn and Mrs. Harvey Thomas of Harnett, George Griffin of Sanford and Robert and Johnny Griffin of Broadway.

## 2 Vets Get Jobs At Local Postoffice

Henry A. Powell of Lillington R-2 and Carl Byrd of Lillington have been notified by the U. S. Civil Service Commission of their appointment to positions of mail carrier at the Lillington postoffice.

Powell has already taken over his job of carrier on Route 2, that position being vacated by the resignation of Ernest Wilder, Jr.

Byrd is scheduled to take over Route 3 on August 2, replacing M. P. Crews, who has held the temporary appointment.

Both Powell and Byrd are veterans of World War II and were wounded in action.

### MOVES IN NEW HOME

Mr. and Mrs. N. F. Lewis has moved in their new home that has just recently been completed.

Mrs. B. G. Rameau and Family.

## Tax Rate Fixing For 1948 Is Hard Job

Harnett's Board of County Commissioners will meet in extra session on Monday, July 26, for the purpose of finally passing upon the budget for the fiscal year 1948-49, and then, or soon thereafter set the rate of the new tax levy.

In tackling that job the Commissioners are up against a hard proposition. Most property owners are expecting the 1948 rate to be substantially reduced. They were led to believe it would be reduced when they learned that re-appraisals had put 8 million dollars of new taxables on the books.

Raising the county's taxable values from 20 to 28 millions, or more than 25 per cent increase, afforded the Commissioners good reason for believing they could do—what they hoped and expected to do—lower the tax rate by a like amount, which would be 25 per cent. That would mean, if carried out, a tax rate for 1948 of \$1.02.

The Commissioners were elated over the success of Tax Supervisor Berles Johnson and his re-appraisers in finding 8 millions of new values. And they were even more elated when they held their sessions as a Board of Equalization and Review. Of all the property owners invited by Supervisor Johnson to come before the Board and register complaint if they had any against their re-appraisals, only a few put in appearance. "There was almost no kick at all," is the way the supervisor put it. And so, having gotten by with the tremendous lift in values, both the

Supervisor and the Board felt they had accomplished something wonderful. They had. But the Supervisor and the Board also thought that a substantial reduction in the tax rate would follow as a matter of course.

In the latter assumption they were sadly mistaken. They found that out when the Board met July 5. When Auditor Herbert Carson presented the figures of the budget, showing that in reality no cut in taxes in 1948 is justified if the county is to stay out of the "red," official countenances dropped to a gloomy level. Probably no one was more sadly disappointed than Tax Supervisor Johnson.

Herman Holloway and Charlie Thornton, who canvassed the county along with local appraisers, no doubt also felt their "teethers fall." After their diligent work they too felt that a great stride had been made toward lowering the county's tax rate. Eight million dollars is a lot of money in any country, even in these flush times right around here.

What will the Commissioners do when they meet to finally thresh out the matter of the budget and the tax rate? There's not much they can do except to adopt the budget permanently as it stands now tentatively and set the tax rate at what Auditor Carson says it must be—\$1.27, or 8 cents below last year and several years back.

Auditor Carson says it would be wise to retain the old figure of \$1.25. Considering the condition of the treasury, he's about right.

## SOLICITOR SAYS COURT WILL QUIT AT END OF WEEK

COY LUCAS, DANIEL DARROCH CASES OCCUPY ALMOST ONE WEEK OF SPECIAL HARNETT CRIMINAL COURT

Still going strong in its second week, and promising to practically clear the docket, the special session of Harnett County Criminal Court is doing its best to wipe the slate clean of long standing and controversial charges ranging from speeding to murder.

Assigned by Governor R. Gregg Cherry to preside over the court, Judge J. Paul Frizzelle has been ordered by the governor once more to remain in Harnett until every case has been heard. The original order signified his tenure as one week's duration.

Solicitor Jack Hooks is scheduled to prosecute the docket in another county next week. This makes it necessary for the special term here to come to an end with this week.

Regarding the congested docket he found when the special term opened, Solicitor Hooks told The News yesterday:

"We will adjourn the special term at the end of this week after having reduced the big docket to a normal size. There will not be much of consequence left on the docket when we adjourn Friday."

The warmest weather of the year has been registered since the court opened, and judge, jury, lawyers, witnesses, defendants and spectators have practically sweated from day to day.

As in most court sessions, several trials were tinged with humor. In one, James Charles Blue, colored of Dunn, was charged with speeding at 60 m.p.h. on Route 174 before he pleaded not guilty, gave the court to understand that "he was going about 70 or 75, but not 90."

A number of cases of more serious nature have held the attention of the court for several days. The Coy T. Lucas case in which burglary was the charge began on Wednesday, July 7th, and did not close until Friday, July 9. The jury could not reach an agreement in the case, and a mistrial was the culmination of three days in court for the principals involved. The Daniel Darroch case in which he, his son Bunk Darroch, and Ralph Creech (Continued on page two)

## Hailstorm Strikes In Angier Section

Another damaging hailstorm struck in Harnett county on Wednesday of last week, this time hitting the farms of Preston Butts, Talmadge Gardner, Tom Matthews, Tim Lipscomb, Millard Matthews, Woodrow Hochaday, Sidney Gregory and others in that neighborhood. The destruction led to Bule's Creek where the damage was lighter.

In some tobacco fields, where the plants were well leaved out, the damage resulted in complete loss. Cotton was also beaten to the ground.

## ACA Aiding Farmers In Applying Lime

It was announced here today by McBryde Cameron, Chairman of the Harnett County A. C. A., that all Harnett farmers who are interested in using lime on their farmland can now receive assistance through the Harnett County A. C. A. program. To get this assistance, a farmer must make application at the AAA Office in Lillington; and, at the time the application is made, the farmer will have to deposit \$2.50 per ton. This is the total cost to the farmer to have this material delivered and spread on his farm.

## Better Pay Up!

Lillington's Commissioners have passed a new ordinance about paying water bills, and it's going to be too bad for those who fail to pay their water bills promptly. They'll be going around singing "How dry I am," because—

The Commissioners say that water bills must be paid by the tenth of the month in which they are rendered, or else the delinquent customer's supply will be cut off.

They'll cost one dollar to turn the water back on—after the after-the-bill is paid, of course.